

Family Engagement Series

HOW DO I CONNECT WITH MY FAMILIES?


Remembering and Celebrating Diversity

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Our presenter



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The Source for Learning

Today's objectives

Celebrate	Discuss	Share
Discover ways to celebrate diversity in your center as an integral part of your early childhood program.	Discuss suggestions for engaging diverse families.	Learn strategies to embrace opportunities to share diverse customs.




What is a Culturally Diverse Center?

Culture Climate Check

Influences on cultural frameworks:

- ✓ Race
- ✓ Ethnicity & National Origin
- ✓ Language
- ✓ Religion / Spiritual Practice
- ✓ Abilities & Disabilities
- ✓ Social Class, Status, & Economic Level
- ✓ Sexual Orientation

Janet Gonzalez-Mena (2008)



Welcoming New Families and Building Rapport

Tour	Orientation
1st Day Follow-up	1st Month Follow-up



Dramatic PLAY

Menus	Cultural Artifacts	Family Pictures
Food Containers	Dress-Up Clothing	Bags / Baskets

Block CENTER

Pretend People	Clothespin People
Pictures of Architecture	Family Pictures at Eye Level

What do you need the survey to report?

Do parents feel supported?	01	Do parents feel their child is accepted?	05
Do parents feel part of decision-making?	02	Do parents feel center materials are diverse?	06
Are parents encouraged to participate?	03	Do parents participate in goal setting?	07
Do opportunities fit parent's schedule?	04		



Action Plan

Date: March 20, 2017

Describe the area or item that needs to be improved: 80% of parents surveyed reported that they are not all of their participation ideas that accommodate parent schedules.

Strategy: Host a "volunteer fair" for parents to sign up for participation opportunities. Exclude a range of activities that should be done during the school day and activities that could be done by the parent at home to support the program.

Improvement Plan:

Due Date	Plan	Who is Responsible?	Resources Needed?
April 12	Staff will coordinate at next staff meeting (4/13/17) and create a list of opportunities for parent involvement. Opportunities for taking work home and returning it to the program will be included.	All staff & Director (Carmy)	Parent Award Shapers Time

Possible Outcomes for Engaging Families

- Teach Parenting & Child Development Skills
- Share Achievements, Concerns & Goals
- Model Parenting Skills
- Socialize
- Reduces Child Abuse & Neglect

What are my resources?
FUNDING • SPACE • TIME

Be Culturally Aware

- Some religions do not allow parents to participate in celebrations/parties.
- Meet with parents/families to make sure that they can participate and that you are not offending anyone.

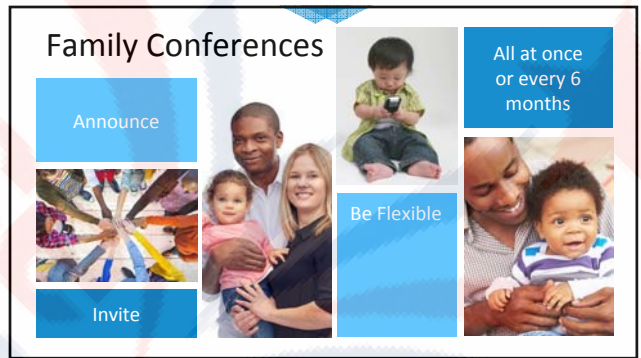
Planning Culturally Diverse Events

Seasonal Celebrations

- International Food Tasting Night
- Family Committee Meetings
- Family Networking Opportunities
- Family Conferences

Seasonal Celebrations

- Carnival Games
- Adult/Child Art Projects
- Story Corner
- Make It & Taste It Snack Corner



Family Networking Opportunities

- Parent Café
- Donuts with Dads
- Muffins with Moms
- Special Female Day Tea
- Special Male Day lunch
- Child-led Open House




Nellie Martinez
 Bilingual Parent Educator and Family Resource Coordinator
 Children's Hospital of Wisconsin-Community Services, and Family Projects Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-Extension

Networking Success Story - Parent Café

- Invite Parents
- Room Set-up
- Intentional Planning
- Guest Speakers
- Parents Lead



Parent Café

- Provide Family Dinner
- Separate Parent & Child Activities
- Combined Closing Activity



Concepts of Bilingual Presentation

- 01 Market the event in both languages
- 02 Enlist a bilingual facilitator or presenter
- 03 Create an environment where native tongues can sit together for discussion
- 04 Be considerate of culture especially for meal planning
- 05 Supply name badges



Engaging the Hispanic and non-Hispanic Community Together



Resources

- 1** **Gonzalez-Mena, Janet. Child, family, and community: family-centered early care and education.**
Boston: Pearson, 2017. Print.
- 2** **TORCH Self-Study Materials**
National Association for the Education of Young Children | NAEYC. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 May 2017.
<http://www.naeyc.org/academy/torch/self-study>
- 3** **About the Engaging Diverse Families Project**
National Association for the Education of Young Children | NAEYC. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 May 2017.
<https://www.naeyc.org/familyengagement/about>

The Source for Learning – ECEI

Next Webinar

Serving the Needs of Unique Diverse Families in Early Childhood Programs

September 20, 2017

Register at:
www.sourceforlearning.org/ecei

Questions?

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